

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A rolling bearing comprising an inner ring and an outer ring made of one of a high-carbon chrome bearing steel, a carburized steel ~~or~~ and a carbon steel for mechanical structures, and a plurality of rolling elements mounted between said inner ring and said outer ring, wherein at least one of said inner ring and said outer ring is subject to a heat treatment comprising, in order, carbonitriding, oil quenching and induction hardening such that a surface layer of said at least one of said inner ring and said outer ring has a compressive strength of not less than 200 MPa, and a tempering hardness at 500°C of not less than Hv 550.

2. **(Cancelled).**

3. **(Previously Presented)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one of said inner ring and said outer ring has a prior austenite grain diameter of not less than Gc 10 in the surface layer thereof.

4. **(Previously Presented)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said heat treatment includes tempering between the carbonitriding and the induction hardening.

5. **(Previously Presented)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said rolling elements are rollers and are arranged in a full complement arrangement.

6. **(Previously Presented)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 1 mounted in a rocker arm of an automobile.

7. **(Previously Presented)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 4 wherein said at least one of said inner ring and said outer ring has a prior austenite grain diameter of not less than Gc 10 in the surface layer thereof.

8. **(Previously Presented)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 4 wherein said heat treatment includes tempering between the carbonitriding and the induction hardening.

9. **(Previously Presented)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 3 wherein said heat treatment includes tempering between the carbonitriding and the induction hardening.

10. **(Previously Presented)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 6 wherein said rolling elements are rollers and are arranged in a full complement arrangement.

11. **(Previously Presented)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 3 wherein said rolling elements are rollers and are arranged in a full complement arrangement.

12. **(Previously Presented)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 4 wherein said rolling elements are rollers and are arranged in a full complement arrangement.

13. **(Cancelled).**

14. **(Previously Presented)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 3 mounted in a rocker arm of an automobile.

15. **(Previously Presented)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 4 mounted in a rocker arm of an automobile.

16. **(Previously Presented)** A rolling bearing as claimed in claim 5 mounted in a rocker arm of an automobile.